

NAAC INDICATORS AND GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE LIBRARIES OF NORTH KARNATAKA: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Quality assessment and accreditation of institutions of higher education or units thereof, or specific academic programmes in the accreditation process, evaluation of libraries is an essential component, Library – a central facility which is the knowledge hub for all the departments, students and faculty occupies significance in getting better accreditation to the college attached therein and hence, this study attempts to evaluate the college libraries of North Karnataka covering 110 colleges with respect to the parameters like Library credibility and privileges of College Librarian and extent of use of library services and best practices rendered by college libraries.

KEYWORDS: NAAC, Performance Measurement, Library Credibility & Best Practices

Received: Jun 01, 2017; **Accepted:** Jun 20, 2017; **Published:** Jul 08, 2017; **Paper Id.:** IJLSRAUG20173

INTRODUCTION

A library is an instrument to improve the quality of life of the people giving them education, information, recreation, intellectual stimulation and enriching their life in all respects. A library well equipped and organized with services and activities imaginatively planned and executed can learn from a society into a well-informed, educated and creative contributing to its own cultural and economic progress. It is the means of communicating information between different generations and between the people of same generation. The creation of new knowledge is possible only on the firm foundation of the existing knowledge access, which is facilitated by the libraries.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in the country. It is an outcome of the recommendations of the National Policy in Education (1986) which laid special emphasis on upholding the quality of higher education in India. To address the issues of quality, the National Policy on Education (1986) and the Plan of Action (POA-1992) advocated the establishment of an independent national accreditation body. Consequently, the NAAC was established in 1994 with its headquarters at Bangalore. In the recent past there has been a mushroom growth of higher educational institutions with sub-standard quality of education. But after NAAC's inception, there has been a massive change in the total scenario of higher education. NAAC's assessment has brought about quality development in the colleges. There has been major improvement in the academic and non-academic activities of the college.

There has been a dramatic change in the scope and pace of technological advances that are contributing substantially to a fundamental shift in library and information products and services, thereby, affect the roles and responsibilities of library professionals. In the context of libraries and information professionals may have to operate more differently than ever in the past. As the shift from an industrial to an information based economy takes place, there will be far more aggressive participants in the production, processing, dissemination, and distribution of information than even before. The issues before library and information professionals are how to cope with the increasing demand for information from a variety of users and use of information technology (IT) to redefine services, roles, and responsibilities. It is against this background, the quality of library should be assessed to keep going in the highly competing situation.

In recent days, researchers and librarians from all over the world have created performance indicators and methodologies for the traditional services. However, in the beginning of the 21st century, the projects and initiatives of quality assessment involve concepts and data from communication and information technologies that have been changing libraries.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Existing literature on NAAC in general and NAAC indicators with respect to Libraries are of mainly available in the form of articles and not much in-depth studies are reported. Lokawar and Kapade (2012) explored the various parameters of NAAC required for enhancement of college library. Antony Stella (2002) discussed case study of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) providing trends of external quality assurance in Indian higher education system. Johnson David and Adityakumari, H (2013) evaluated the difference in practicing of TQM application of NBA, NAAC, ISO and six sigma in Management and professional college libraries. The data were collected from 57 libraries of management colleges using a structured questionnaire. Independent samples 't' test and One way ANOVA were employed to find out difference between ISO and non-ISO certified institutions in their TQM, as well as difference between libraries accredited by different agencies. Results revealed that those management libraries with ISO certification had higher TQM practices compared to management libraries without ISO certification. Further, management libraries with EQUIS accreditation had least TQM and libraries with NBA accreditation had highest TQM practices. Jisha K. V (2015) highlights a survey report of NAAC accredited Arts and Science colleges affiliated to Kannur University. The main focus of the study is the role NAAC in quality assurance in higher education. With respect to quality, it is the buzzword in today's world of education. It has become an important ideology of education.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study is to determine the extent of selected NAAC parameters met by government college libraries in North Karnataka particularly

- Library credibility and privileges of College Librarian
- Extent of use of library services and
- Best practices rendered by college libraries.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A survey method of research using structured questionnaires been employed for the collection of data to evaluate the college libraries in the light of selected indicators of NAAC. In addition to this personal visits were made and also

method of observation was adopted to study the problem.

Study population includes government degree colleges of North Karnataka covering 12 districts and though questionnaires were distributed manually and also using web form, out of 129 colleges, 110 colleges have responded with a feedback of 85.2%.

Table 1: Study Population

Sl. No	Districts of North Karnataka	GOVERNMENT COLLEGES		
		Total Colleges	Total Colleges Distributed	Total Colleges Responded
1.	Bagalkot	12	12	10
2.	Belgaum	20	20	17
3.	Bellary	13	13	10
4.	Bidar	8	8	6
5.	Bijapur	7	7	7
6.	Dharwad	7	7	7
7.	Gadag	8	8	7
8.	Gulbarga	19	19	16
9.	Haveri	11	11	9
10.	Koppal	11	11	9
11.	Raichur	8	8	7
12.	Yadgir	5	5	5
	TOTAL	129	129	110

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

General Characteristics

Gender and qualification of respondents and NAAC Grade of Government colleges of North Karnataka are tabulated forming general characteristics of the study. Respondents are the College Librarians serving in the Government colleges of North Karnataka.

Table 2: Gender of the Respondents

Establishment of Degree Colleges		GENDER		Total
		Male	Female	
Prior to Year 2000	Count	21	6	27
	Percentage	77.8%	22.2%	100.0%
After year 2000	Count	55	28	83
	Percentage	66.3%	33.7%	100.0%
Total	Count	76	34	110
	Percentage	69.1%	30.9%	100.0%

It is found from results of table 2 that majority of the respondents are male (69.1%) and only 30.9% of them are female respondents. Government colleges established prior to year 2000 and later are cross tabulated with gender of respondents. Irrespective of gender of respondents, majority of the college librarians covered in the study are male.

Table 3: Qualification of the Respondents

			Qualification		Total
	Establishment of Degree Colleges		PhD	Non-PhD	
	Prior to Year 2000	Count	4	23	27
		Percentage	14.8%	85.2%	100.0%
	After year 2000	Count	20	63	83
		Percentage	24.1%	75.9%	100.0%
Total		Count	24	86	110
		Percentage	21.8%	78.2%	100.0%

Qualification of college librarians is depicted in Table 3. Results found that majority of the college librarians do not possess PhD qualification and only 21.8% of them possess doctorate in Library and Information Science, As per NAAC guidelines, higher qualification of college librarian is desirable and this is met by only 21.8% of college librarians of Government degree colleges in North Karnataka.

Table 4: NAAC GRADE of Government Degree Colleges

			NAAC GRADE					
	Establishment of Degree Colleges		A+ Grade	A Grade	B+ Grade	B Grade	Not Available or No Grade	Total
	Prior to Year 2000	Count	0	2	4	8	13	27
		Percentage	.0%	7.4%	14.8%	29.6%	48.1%	100.0%
	After year 2000	Count	1	3	6	41	32	83
		Percentage	1.2%	3.6%	7.2%	49.4%	38.6%	100.0%
Total		Count	1	5	10	49	45	110
		Percentage	.9%	4.5%	9.1%	44.5%	40.9%	100.0 %

Results from table 4 reveals that less than half of the college libraries have been accredited with B-Grade and only 9.1% with B+ Grade, 4.5% with A Grade and only one college has acquired A+ Grade. However 40.9% of college librarians either not responded or do not possess any grade, as there is a chance of being established recently.

Library Image Building Parameters

Table 5: Vision and Mission Statement of Government Colleges

			Q13		Total
	Vision Statement		Yes	No	
	Prior to Year 2000	Count	18	9	27
		Percentage	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%
	After year 2000	Count	55	28	83
		Percentage	66.3%	33.7%	100.0%
Total		Count	73	37	110
		Percentage	66.4%	33.6%	100.0%
	Mission Statement				
	Prior to Year 2000	Count	18	9	27
		Percentage	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%
	After year 2000	Count	55	28	83
		Percentage	66.3%	33.7%	100.0%
Total		Count	73	37	110
		Percentage	66.4%	33.6%	100.0%

Table 5 shows Vision and Mission Statement of Government Colleges, which is required as per the NAAC parameter. Results found that irrespective of year of establishment of colleges, 66.4% of the colleges have Vision and Mission Statement and thus fulfilling the requirement of NAAC and only 33.6% of them negate the purpose.

Table 6: Librarian Credentials in Government Colleges

Librarian Credentials		Frequency	Percentage
a.	NSS Coordinator	11	10%
b.	NAAC Coordinator	34	30.9%
c.	In-charge Principal	45	40.9%
d.	Member of any Committee of the College	102	92.7%
e.	Earn while you Learn' scheme	4	3.6%

Librarians are on par with Teachers and play significant role in college activities and programs in addition to the responsibility of Librarian. In addition to the regular post of Librarian, they execute the additional responsibility as NSS Coordinator, NAAC Coordinator, In-charge Principal and Member of any Committee of the College effectively. These are the additional credentials from the perspective of evaluation of college library by the NAAC. Results found that the respondent college librarians acted as NAAC Coordinator to the extent of 30.9% and 40.9% as In-charge Principal, which is a good sign of dynamism among librarians. Majority of the college librarians are involved as Member of any Committee of the College (92.7%). But still there is a need to undertake responsibility as NSS Coordinator with other roles as well and this will really boost the image building and satisfy the NAAC parameters. Although Earn while you Learn' scheme' is desirable but almost all the college libraries do not have initiated this scheme for their students.

Extent of Use of Library Services

One of the important criteria as per guidelines of quality indicator of NAAC for college libraries is Extent of Use of Library services and this includes Average number of books issued per day, Average number of books returned per day, Average number of reference enquiries (users) made per month and Average number of users visiting the library per month.

Table 7: Extent of Use of Services

Extent of Use of Services	Total Number				Chi-Square & Asymp. Sig
	25-50	51-100	101-200	201-500	
Average number of books issued per day	53 48.18%	19 17.27%	33 30%	5 4.5%	62.030 .000
Average number of books returned per day	56 50.9%	14 12.72%	33 30%	5 4.5%	57.171 .000
Average number of reference enquiries (users) made per month	53 48.18%	17 15.45%	1 0.9%	39 35.45%	49.891 .000
	300-1000	1001-3000	More than 3000		
Average number of users visiting the library per month	53 48.18%	41 37.27%	16 14.5%		59.580 .000

Results of table 7 reveals that nearly half of the college libraries issue 25-50 average number of books per day (48.18%) and 101-200 books are issued in 30% of the colleges. 50.9% of the college libraries indicated that Average number of books (25-50 numbers) returned per day are 25-50 numbers and 101-200 number. In nearly half of the colleges, Average number of reference enquiries (users) made per month is found to be between 25 to 50 queries and in 48.18% of college libraries, Average number of users visiting the library per month reported to be between 25 to 50 users only. AS

per the NAAC, the extent of use should be optimum and higher number of visitors, issue, return of books are desirable and these results calls for further improvement in services and promotion of library sources and services.

Application of Chi-Square test to determine extent of association between colleges established and Extent of Use of Library services is found to be significant as the P value calculated is higher than table value at 0.05 level of significance.

Best Practices

Table 8: Best Practices of College Libraries

Best Practices	Frequency	Percentage
a. Inclusion of sufficient Information about the Library in the College Prospectus	6	5.5
b. Compiling Student/Teacher Attendance Statistics & Locating the same on Notice Board	2	1.8
c. Displaying Newspaper Clippings on Notice Board	106	96.4
d. Career/Employment Information/ Services	106	96.4
e. Signage Systems	6	5.5
f. Suggestion Box	6	5.5
g. Conducting Book Exhibitions on Different Occasions	106	96.4
h. Organizing book talks	106	96.4
i. Instituting Annual Best User Award for Students	106	96.4

Best Practices have been listed by NAAC and among them some of the best practices are enlisted in Table 8 which shows that 96.4% of the college libraries adopt best practices like Displaying Newspaper Clippings on Notice Board, Conducting Book Exhibitions on different Occasions, Organizing book talks and Instituting Annual Best User Award for Students.

CONCLUSIONS

In the changing information industry quality and excellence in librarianship occupies significant role to ensure access to timely information required by the users. Satisfaction of users is a prime concern for libraries. Results is an alarming to the college librarians to identify its strength and weaknesses for better accreditation, as it is general tendency in an college setup that a Library is blamed if the grading system from NAAC for the college is not that satisfactory. Hence, the college libraries should identify the parameters and guidelines on quality indicators in library and information services of affiliated/constituent colleges and plan from the beginning to ensure it satisfies the desired indicators to bring name and fame of the college.

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